



Instructional Technology Staff
(573) 751-8247

<http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/newsletters>

- ◆ Deborah S. Sutton, Director
- ◆ Claranne Vogel, Supervisor
- ◆ Lisa Walters, Library Media and Technology Consultant
- ◆ Rosalyn Wieberg, Supervisor
- ◆ Shirley Brumley, Administrative Assistant

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◆ **Instructional Technology Update**

FY04 Technology Budgets and Grant Programs

State and Federal Funds/Programs:

TAG (Not funded for FY04)

TNP – (No news to report)

Two districts have indicated plans to join the MOREnet Technology Network Program in FY04. This brings the total number of K-12 participants to 515: to 513 districts, the State School for the Deaf, and the State School for the Blind.

SAFE SCHOOLS – (Reminder)

Districts operating safe schools programs are encouraged to attend the 15th annual *National Dropout Prevention Network Conference: Reaching Every Student Straight from the Heart* which will be held in the Kansas City, MO Hyatt Regency Crown Center on October 26-29, 2003. To register online, see <http://odce.clemson.edu/NDPC/index.html>.

TITLE IID GRANTS –

Effective September 30, the High Plains Regional Technology in Education Consortium (HPR*TEC) was selected to contract with the U.S. Department of Education to manage the Missouri Title IID by-

pass. Ten percent of the state's Title IID funds by-pass DESE and flow to HPR*TEC. The funds support non-public school participation in the Title IID program.

District Technology Plan Approvals

WORKSHOPS – The Missouri Educational Technology Professional Association (METPA) will conduct workshops next month across the state to help districts develop new education technology plans. Approximately 70 district education technology plans will have their state approval status expire in 2004. New and/or substantially updated plans are to be submitted to Instructional Technology by March 31, 2004. A panel of readers will review the plans in Jefferson City on April 15-16, 2004. See calendar section for details.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE – METPA volunteers will be available in January and March to provide technical assistance. Educators are invited to bring drafts of their plans to have them reviewed by trained evaluators. Opportunities for technical assistance will be provided in Jefferson City in January and at MOREnet's spring technical conference in March.

E-rate Program

FUNDING YEAR 2003 – Wave 12 for E-rate funding for funding year 2003 (July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004) was issued on Tuesday September 23, 2003. In this wave, the SLD committed nearly \$103.4 million in 308 letters to school and library applicants. The funding associated with this wave included funding for priority 1 (telecommunications and Internet access) and for priority 2 (internal connections) at the 85% discount level. To date, the SLD has committed nearly \$1.1 billion in 27,900 letters for funding year 2003. Additional waves will be issued every other week until the process is complete. Visit the E-rate website at <http://www.sl.universalservice.org/default.asp>.

FUNDING YEAR 2004 – Schools and libraries can begin applying for 2004 E-rate discounts on November 5, 2003. Applicants will have until February 4, 2004 at 11:59 p.m. EST to submit their Form 471 applications for funding year 2004. Note that the SLD expects to announce some administrative changes for the upcoming program year, but says more information will follow. "We anticipate some changes, but we are not ready to talk about them," SLD spokesman Mel Blackwell said. "We haven't got all the details yet." Program insiders say applicants also should watch for forthcoming hearings and rulemaking that might affect the E-rate as early as this year. Source: eSchool News September 26, 2003

See: <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStorytw.cfm?ArticleID=4679>

WORKSHOPS – (Reminder)

MOREnet will conduct regional training sessions in October and November. These sessions are intended for those new to the program or needing a refresher course. Sessions will provide an overview of the program, discuss eligible services, and go over the application process and required forms. They will be conducted in Independence on October 22, Macon on October 23, Springfield on October 27, Poplar Bluff on October 28, Camdenton on October 30, Maryville on November 4, and St. Peters on November 5. Any district, school, or library in the state can send representatives to these sessions – whether or not it is a part of the K-12 TNP or REAL programs. To register, e-mail training@more.net or call (800) 509-6673 and ask for Sandra Monnig. If emailing, be sure to include your name, daytime phone number, e-mail address, organization name and location, and the date of training that you wish to attend.

See: <http://www.more.net/services/e-rate/training2003.html> for details on dates, times, and locations.

Ed Tech News, Publications, and Resources

National technology "Speak Up" day

"Speak Up" day is a widespread effort to reach out to students across the country to learn how they are using technology and the Internet during an online event organized by NetDay, a national non-profit organization. Public and non-public schools everywhere—in rural communities, inner city schools and suburban areas-- will lead classroom discussions and students will complete a short survey online. NetDay will report the results to participants, partners, and to the U.S. Department of Education for inclusion in the National Technology Education Plan. To "speak up," a school only needs a computer with a network connection, a teacher to register the class's participation, students with ideas to share and support from organizations such as SETDA, one of NetDay's non-profit partners. Schools will register prior to the event and receive a template with a series of questions and

teacher and classroom support materials to guide them through the process. On the day of the event the comments pertaining to the questions will be submitted on line through a specific NetDay website. Schools can register to participate at www.netday.org starting September 22. See related article: <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=4642>

NCLB fuels growth in school tech spending

Despite waning budgets, K-12 schools in the United States will invest close to \$6 billion in instructional technology this year, according to a report unveiled September 16 by Quality Education Data Inc. (QED).

The company's annual Technology Purchasing Forecast attributes the estimated \$60 million increase in spending over the previous year primarily to the new data tracking and reporting elements of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). "Schools are increasingly making a bigger investment in administrative software to track students, inform the community about educational progress, and meet the new requirements of the federal [law]," said QED President Jeanne Hayes. "We're already seeing that the federal government's push for more detailed information about various subgroups, such as students by ethnic background, is driving greater investment in systems that offer more robust reporting on student academic progress." She continued: "If this projection holds, districts will have kept funding for instructional technology relatively steady, which is a substantial achievement in these days of state budget deficits and other pressures." Source: eSchool News September 22, 2003 See: <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStorytw.cfm?ArticleID=4647>

The NCLB Act and education technology standards

According to Andrew Trotter of Ed Week, "state education departments are paying new heed to what some call 21st-century or contemporary literacies because of a goal in the federal education law of ensuring that every 8th grader is proficient in the use of technology by 2005." Much of this has to do with the \$700 million authorized for states under Title 2-D of the NCLB Act. Trotter says these provisions have "spurred recent interest in the experience of the few states that have had technology standards in place for years." But, not all educators are enamored by the imposition of additional requirements for making productive uses of telecommunications technologies in schools and classroom. Some are saying the focus on standards diverts attention from the fundamental challenge of using technology well in the classroom; that attempting to assure that all teachers and students have a set of specific skills misses the point; and that "all teachers and students do not need a bound book of standards to achieve results." All but a handful of states have adopted ed/tech standards for students, teachers, and/or administrators.

See: <http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=01techlit.h23>

New NCLB "Toolkit for Teachers" provides straightforward information

The U.S. Department of Education released a "Toolkit for Teachers" providing accurate, straightforward information about No Child Left Behind and the law's "highly qualified teacher" provisions in particular. The Toolkit also includes answers to a series of questions frequently asked by teachers as well as helpful information about loan forgiveness, tax credits and liability protection for teachers, links to helpful Web sites, information about data-driven decision-making, and guidance on understanding the federal, state and local roles in the No Child Left Behind law.

The Toolkit is available online at <http://www.ed.gov/teachers/nclbguide/index2.html>. Teachers can also order a copy by

- calling the U.S. Department of Education's Publications Center (ED Pubs) toll-free at 1-877-4-ED-PUBS (1-877-433-7827); TTY/TDD: 1-877-576-7734; FAX: 1-301-470-1244;
- ordering online at: <http://www.edpubs.org>;
- emailing edpubs@inet.ed.gov; or
- writing to request a copy: ED Pubs, P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794-1398

Education First Alliance guide for explaining NCLB

This guide provides multiple resources to help school and district leaders communicate with parents and the public about the NCLB law and its impact. The guide provides guidance for leaders working with schools labeled as “in need of improvement.”

See: <http://www.learningfirst.org/publications/nclbguide/>

HPR*TEC releases new QuizStar and ProfilerPro

The High Plains Regional Technology in Education (HPR*TEC) is recognized for offering free web-based tools, created to help educators integrate technology into education. Last month, the RTEC announced the release of newer version of its popular QuizStar and Profiler resources.

The new **QuizStar** is based on teacher comments and suggestions over the last four years. The new version allows instructors to access QuizStar from work or at home, create quizzes for students to take and review online, utilize the robust Report Management tools, and create Multi-lingual quizzes. QuizStar allows students to search for classes online, take and review quizzes. See: <http://quizstar.4teachers.org/>

ProfilerPro allows for the evaluation of knowledge, attitude, and skill based on simple surveys implemented via the World Wide Web. Inspired by the widely popular collaboration tool Profiler, ProfilerPro maintains the ability for members of a group to share knowledge and promote collaboration based on responses to skills-based survey items. Use ProfilerPro to strengthen your school's, district's, or other educational group's ability to share expertise and grow as an organization. [Join a group](#) and take a survey to assess your technology abilities and find someone who can help you strengthen these skills within your general location. [Create a new group](#) for your educational organization and serve as that group's manager. Browse our [survey library](#) and our collection of [learning resources](#) in order to increase your knowledge of a topic. See: <http://profilerpro.com/>

Other HPR*TEC tools include Assign-A-Day, Casa Notes, Edlines, Kids' Vid, NoteStar, Notable Pics, PBL (project based learning) Checklists, PRISM: Polar Explorer, RubiStar, Tech Topics, Think Tank, TrackStar, Web Worksheet Wizard, www.4Kids.org, and www.4teachers.org.

See: <http://hprtec.org>

The National Center for Technology Innovation

The National Center for Technology Innovation is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. As a national catalyst for innovation in special education and early intervention technology, NCTI is establishing an interactive network of technology innovators. NCTI supports technology researchers and developers as they share ideas, collaborate with colleagues, and invent new technologies.

- Participate in the Hot Topic Community to discuss issues surrounding technology innovation.
- Download reports to learn about recent trends in technology innovation and research and development.
- Search the NCTI database to learn about the innovative work conducted by federally funded technology projects.
- Read the quarterly newsletter that features interviews with experts in the field, updates on federal policies that impact technology research and development, and highlights new products and projects.

See: <http://nationaltechcenter.org>

Using data to drive professional development

Teachers need training in both data management and data analysis as well as in facilitating discussions about data. Professional developers can help. Professional developers can show teachers how to collect the appropriate data and evidence, analyze it for gaps in learning areas, find the patterns and themes that seem to show over time, work with them to develop curriculum that meets those needs, and then help them modify their teaching. Source: TechLearning News - September 2, 2003 - No. 17 See:

<http://www.techlearning.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=13100789>

PDQ (Professional Development QuickTips)

Enhance your work with teachers by using expert advice and information from other staff developers before, during, or after any session. Find out what types of resources to collect and share. Source: TechLearning Tips - September 9, 2003
See: <http://techlearning.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=13800056>

eSchoolNews and ElementK present new professional development center

The Professional Development Center, a new online learning resource hosted by eSchoolNews in partnership with ElementK, provides the following services:

- Learnitonline – online, instructor-facilitated, self-study courses, ranging in duration from 4 to 10 weeks of instruction.
- Technical journals – each journal investigates all the features and benefits of a major software application such as Excel, PowerPoint or Word, then translates this knowledge into a digestible, easy-to-read format.
- Special Bonuses – receive a free one-year subscription to eSchoolNews with the purchase of any course or journal (a \$72 value).

Source: eSN School Technology Alert – September 9, 2003

See: <http://www.eschoolnews.com/erc/professionaldevelopment/>

eSchool News website for enhancing teaching and learning with web-enabled resources

To help educators use the Internet to improve instruction, the editors of eSchool News have compiled this free one-stop source for expert advice and key intelligence. Made possible with support of netTrekker, this online toolkit features an extensive collection of stories and articles from the eSchool News archives, as well as links to outside resources—all carefully chosen to help teachers effectively integrate the web into your curriculum. Learn more about how carefully deployed web-enabled instruction can increase teacher productivity and increase student achievement. Discover how provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act can be used to pay for a program that increases the effective use of the Internet in your schools.

See: <http://www.eschoolnews.com/resources/reports/enhancingcurriculum/index.cfm>

Search engine for educational web sites

Education World is designed to make it easy for educators to integrate the Internet into the classroom. Calling itself the "Educator's Best Friend," the site features a search engine for educational Web sites only; original content, including lesson plans, practical information for educators, information on how to integrate technology in the classroom and articles written by education experts; site reviews; daily features and columns; teacher and principal profiles; and employment listings.

See: <http://www.education-world.com>

Missouri School Board Association launches Internet protocol surveillance system

The [Missouri School Boards Association](http://www.msbanet.org) (MSBA) will present an Internet protocol (IP) surveillance system to school districts nationwide. MSBA selected the system, which is based on network video products, from Axis Communications, after extensive research of new technologies and the current competitive offerings. MSBA recognizes the need for digital surveillance as a tool to assist schools in providing a secure environment for students to learn. The system discourages vandalism and theft, encourages students to self-regulate their behavior, and verifies the presence of employees, students and vendors. The system also allows for community involvement. Districts have the option to give access to local police and other first responders, giving them real-time images of conditions in and around the school. The network cameras will be placed in schools' public areas such as lunchrooms and hallways -- areas where most incidents in school are likely to occur.

See: <http://www.msbanet.org>



Missouri Educational Technology Conference: Registration Extended

<http://www.more.net/services/conferences/fall2003/index.html>

The online registration deadline for the 2003 Missouri Educational Technology Conference: Teacher Driven-Technology has been extended through Oct. 10. Choose from more than 100 educational technology-related sessions for those new to technology and technology experts. Don't miss this opportunity to see how other educators are using technology in their classrooms.

Preview the conference program available on MOREnet's website, before registering. For complete session and registration information go to the conference web site.



Coming Soon...MOREnet Remote Vulnerability Assessment Service

--Submitted by Eric Nicklas, Program Manager, K-12 Technology Network Program, MOREnet
<http://www.more.net>

Has your school district been hacked? Since July 2003, school districts have seen a remarkable increase in network attacks. Is your network safe?

MOREnet's new Remote Vulnerability Assessment Service provides a comprehensive study of your organization's public Internet security. The assessment, performed by MOREnet Security staff over the Internet, looks for signs of vulnerabilities in your network that pose immediate risks. Essentially, MOREnet Security staff provides a hacker's view of your public network, giving you critical information to secure it against threats.

MOREnet's Remote Vulnerability Assessment staff includes two Certified Information System Security Professionals. They are veterans of SANS, USENIX Security and full-time members of MOREnet's event response team, well versed in current security tools, attacks, trends and best practices.

Since new vulnerabilities are discovered daily, MOREnet's Security Team constantly researches and reviews new security tools and methodologies. The MOREnet Security Team will examine areas including, but not limited to, Windows, Netware, Mail Server, Web Server and Firewall vulnerabilities. The data gathered can provide customers with a clear, unbiased view of the current status of their network.

This for-fee service is available only to MOREnet customers. Pricing will be available soon. Watch <http://www.more.net> for future announcements about service details.



METPA News

Becky Chancellor, METPA Membership Committee Chairman
www.metpa.com

As another school year begins, I want to remind technology related personnel about an opportunity to become part of this statewide organization. The benefits of belonging to the Missouri Educational Technology Professionals Association (METPA) includes professional development opportunities, as well as, a network of human and material resources.

One of the committees you can be a part of is the *Membership Committee*. The responsibilities of this committee include: (1) Work closely with Missouri school district personnel involved with Educational Technology by planning and promoting a continuing membership campaign (2) Make regular reports of membership to the Executive Board (3) Develop and coordinate, with the Liaison/Communications Officer, membership promotional information (4) Present the formatted membership application form to the Executive Board and (5) expedite correspondence with members regarding problems.

Becoming a member is easy and only costs \$25.00. Stop by the METPA table while attending the Educational Technology Conference at Tan-Tar-A on Oct 19-21 and find out more information on the benefits of belonging to this group or visit us at www.metpa.org



THE GREAT DEPRESSION—One Day Conference

www.csd.org

Offered by CSD and the Federal Reserve Bank, a one-day conference for educators k-12. What were the causes? What lessons did we learn? Could it happen again?

Here's your chance to learn more about an event that shaped our economy decades ago and continues to influence us today. Don't miss the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis' fall conference for educators, featuring presentations by a Federal Reserve economist, hands-on activities and simulations for your classroom, and free teaching materials. Continental breakfast will be served at 8am, and lunch is provided. The program will adjourn at 3pm. There is no fee, but registration is required.

This program will be held at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis for grades K-8 on October 21, 2003. For grades 9-12 the program will be on October 22, 2003.

If you are an Economic, Language Arts, Social Studies, or Government teacher and would like to participate in this program, please contact Dave Peeters at Cooperating School Districts 314-692-1212 dpeeters@csd.org. There will be a follow-up to the Federal Reserve Program through videoconferencing hosted by the Cooperating School Districts on Tuesday, November 4th. For grades K-8 the program will begin at 9:00am and for grades 9-12 the program will begin at 10:00am. This will be a 1-hour program. The presenter will be Peggy Pride.

Grant Opportunity: Boyer Best Practices Award

<http://www.boyercenter.org>

Elementary schools with programs to improve collaborative professional development in technology or other areas could earn funding under the Boyer Best Practices Award. The Boyer Center offers three grants of \$10,000 to schools. The Best Practices awards recognize elementary school programs that "foster shared teacher leadership through collaborative professional development ... and promote exemplary practices." The program is open to K-6 schools. When choosing winning proposals the center will look for the following.

- Evidence that the school-based teacher collaboration and leadership initiatives are informed by relevant research and theoretical models;
- Evidence of school-initiated collaboration and leadership among teachers that empowers teachers, develops collegial relationships and leads to positive change and development in schools;
- School structures that promote collaborative professional communities around teachers, which includes evidence of time and space built into the schedule and the building for planning, collegiality and professional development; and
- Processes to help ensure ongoing evaluation and continuity of teacher leadership and collaborative efforts.

Deadline: November 4

Contact person: Birgitta Gustofson, (717) 796-5077 bgustaf@messiah.edu

Copyright Question of the Month

Q. May a school and/or a parent group tape record (video and audio) a student performance using copyrighted music (e.g. talent show) for fund raising purposes?

A. No This violates copyright law.

Note: A videotape recording (no audio included) may be made. The videotape without audio may be sold because it does not contain the audio portion of copyrighted music.

It is recommended that written parental permission be obtained for each child appearing in the videotape.



Mark Your Calendar

October 1	Newsline published
9	MO Rural Opportunities Council Telecommunications/Education Committee Meeting (1:15-3:30 pm) Governor Office Building, Room 316, Jefferson City, MO
13	Columbus Day—State Offices Closed
25	Newsline articles due
November 1	Newsline published
5	Writing a School Technology Plan Workshop (9:00-Noon) Marshall High School Little Theatre 805 Miami St., Marshall, MO
7	Writing A School Technology Plan (9:00-Noon) SW Center For Educational Excellence 600 South Ellis, Suite B, Webb City, MO
11	Veteran's Day—State Offices Closed
13	MO Rural Opportunities Council Telecommunications/Education Committee Meeting (1:15-3:30 pm) Governor Office Building, Room 316, Jefferson City, MO
25	Newsline articles due
27	Thanksgiving Day



Upcoming 2003-2004 Conferences

October 10-11	Connected Classroom Conference-Making the Connection: Curriculum, Technology and Achievement Seattle, Washington mmadera@classroom.com
October 12-13	25 th Annual Rural and Small Schools Conference Manhattan Holiday Inn Holidome, Manhattan, Kansas barbhav@ksu.edu
October 16-18	ASCD Conference on Teaching and Learning (2003) Philadelphia Marriott, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania acunning@ascd.org
October 19-21	Missouri Educational Technology Conference 2003: Teacher-Driven Technology Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Missouri Research and Education Network Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO http://www.more.net/services/conferences/fall2003/
October 26-29	National Dropout Prevention Network Conference: Reaching Every Student Straight From the Heart Hyatt Regency Crown Center, Kansas City, MO http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conference/conferen.html
November 4-7	EDUCAUSE 2003 Annual Conference Anaheim, California http://www.educause.edu/conference/

November 18-19	Connected Classroom Conference-Making the Connection: Curriculum, Technology and Achievement Chicago, Illinois mmadera@classroom.com
December 2-3	Missouri Network Security Symposium Linn State Technical College and Missouri Research and Education Network MOREnet, Columbia, MO http://www.more.net/services/conferences
January 26-28	Midwest Education and Teaching Conference Cooperating School Districts Sheraton Westport Hotel, St. Louis, MO http://www.csd.org/metc2004
January 29-31	Twenty-Second Annual International Conference: Technology, Reading and Learning Difficulties (TRLTD) 2004 Grand Hyatt San Francisco on Union Square, San Francisco, California http://www.trld.com
February 19-21	Interface A-Grades K-6 Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum
February 22-24	Interface B-Grades 7-12 Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum
July 15-16	Missouri Distance Learning Conference (MoDLA) Site to be determined



From the Mailbag

What Makes A Great Teacher?

<http://www.apa.org/monitor/teachertoc.html>

With poor student outcomes spurring renewed interest in accountability among state and national policymakers, psychologists are increasingly influencing education policy, writes Rebecca A. Clay. They're transforming teacher training programs, creating models that put a greater emphasis on evidence, the liberal arts and mentoring. They're making existing research more accessible to teachers. And they're conducting new studies on everything from using computers in the classroom to promoting the teaching of such skills as resilience and responsibility. In the process, they're bringing rigorous science to a field long characterized by anecdotal evidence. Numerous articles in the new issue of "Monitor on Psychology" will be of interest to both educators and advocates.

Tech-Savvy Superintendent Award

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/resources/surveys/editorial/savvy/Savvy2004.cfm>

eSchool News Seeks Nominations for Tech-Savvy Superintendents: Does your superintendent "Get it" when it comes to technology? eSchool News is seeking nominations of superintendents who are deserving of recognition at the American School Administrators Association conference. Deadline for nominations is Friday, October 31, 2003.

Global Educator Award and Peace Educator Award

<http://www.rpcv.org/pages/sitepage.cfm?id=55>

Do you know of an educator who is doing outstanding work in global education or peace education? Are you that educator? The National Peace Corps Association's Global TeachNet Program seeks nominations for two types of awards for K-12 school-based educators: Global Educator Awards

and Peace Educator Awards. They encourage nominations by all interested parties, including parents, students, administrators, and community members and also accept self-nominations. Global Educator and Peace Educator Award winners will receive a \$500 monetary award and national recognition. Their global and peace education lesson plans will be featured in the Global TeachNet website and newsletter. Nomination deadline: October 20, 2003.

Nationwide Grant Writers' Directory

http://www.grantsalert.com/gwd_info.cfm

On October 15, 2003, GrantsAlert.com will launch their Nationwide Grant Writers' Directory. The directory is meant to place some of our nation's finest grant writers within reach of those who need their services to secure the funds to fulfill their missions.

FastWEB

<http://www.fastweb.com/>

FastWEB is the largest online scholarship search available, with 600,000 scholarships representing over one billion in scholarship dollars. It provides students with accurate, regularly updated information on scholarships, grants, and fellowships suited to their goals and qualifications, all at no cost to the student. Students should be advised that FastWEB collects and sells student information (such as name, address, e-mail address, date of birth, gender, and country of citizenship) collected through their site.

Federal Resources for Educational Excellence (FREE)

<http://www.ed.gov/free/>

More than 30 Federal agencies formed a working group in 1997 to make hundreds of federally supported teaching and learning resources easier to find. The result of that work is the FREE website.

Tips for Funding Technology Needs

<http://www.pnnonline.org/article.php?sid=4690>

In the current economic climate, funding for technology needs has become particularly difficult, as many funders primarily want to invest in direct services and programs. Learn how to make a strong case for technology funding.

53 Years of "Trick-Or-Treat For UNICEF" (United Nations Children's Fund)

<http://www.unicefusa.org/trickortreat>

"Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF" is celebrating its 53rd year. This fall they are working to involve as many schools as possible in the nationwide "Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF" campaign, which supports UNICEF's efforts and helps U.S. children learn about global issues and better understand the world in which they live. UNICEF works in 158 countries to assist young victims of natural disasters, civil strife and economic upheaval by providing clean water, medicine, immunizations, education, and nutrition and emergency relief. "Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF" has proven to be a successful service-learning tool for schools throughout the United States. Since 1950, this program has raised over \$119 million to provide basic services to children throughout the world. Participating children will have the unique opportunity to help UNICEF save and improve children's lives in many ways while learning about the world around them. The UNICEF website has more materials to download than ever plus Spanish translations.

ReadWriteThink

ReadWriteThink, established in April of 2002, is a partnership between the International Reading Association (IRA), the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), and the MarcoPolo Education Foundation. NCTE and IRA are working together to provide educators and students with access to the highest quality practices and resources in reading and language arts instruction through free, Internet-based content. Their home page is <http://www.readwritethink.org/index.asp>

ReadWriteThink offers a collection of online Student Materials to support literacy learning in the K-12 classroom. These interactive tools can be used to supplement a variety of lessons and provide an opportunity for students to use technology while developing their literacy skills. Click on the name of each interactive for a brief description of the tool and a list of the ReadWriteThink lessons that use the tool. From there you'll also be able to directly access the tool and use it in your classroom. The online Student Materials can be found at

http://www.readwritethink.org/student_mat/index.asp

Smithsonian Education

www.SmithsonianEducation.org

The Smithsonian Institution announces the launch of www.SmithsonianEducation.org, an exciting new web site for educators, families, and students. Featuring content from 16 Smithsonian museums, the National Zoo, and the Smithsonian's world-class research centers; [SmithsonianEducation.org](http://www.SmithsonianEducation.org) brings the Smithsonian's vast educational resources to millions of classrooms and homes across the nation.

The Classroom Flyer

<http://www.riverdeep.net>

The Classroom Flyers are a free service provided by Riverdeep. Visit us online at:

<http://www.riverdeep.net> To subscribe to The Classroom Flyer visit:

<http://pages.info.riverdeep.net/riverdeep/ed/ClassroomFlyerSignup.atl>

- A Year Of Eighth Grade Science

<http://learnweb.harvard.edu/alps/tfu/pop3.cfm>

Follow through a year of middle school science with a highly respected science teacher. Find

tips for setting up your classroom, establishing through lines, organizing students' work, and teaching strategies and suggestions for units on cells, body systems, and genetics.

- Welcome To The Virtual Cell
<http://personal.tmlp.com/Jimr57/>
Journey deep inside the building blocks of life itself in this online tour. Teachers will find accompanying student worksheets to make the best use of the site. A virtual textbook of organic chemistry and cell biology is also available.
- Genetic Science Learning Center
<http://gslc.genetics.utah.edu/>
Genetics is a hot topic in our modern world--students can explore the world of DNA and chromosomes, genetic disorders, and stem cells (the latest news show stem cells are quite prevalent in baby teeth), and complete hands-on activities. They will be able to extract DNA from wheat germ or show just how enzymes function. Explore current issues in cloning, and then click to clone a genetically identical version of Mimi the mouse, learning the steps involved in this procedure.
- The Giant Cell
<http://sln.fi.edu/biosci/activity/bio-3.html>
In order to fully comprehend a cell and how it operates, your students themselves will be forming the cell and its parts, and then working and moving in unison in order to transmit a cell message--a great little lesson in teamwork and cooperation as well as in cell biology.
- Parts Wanted—Only Cells Need Apply
<http://www.teachersfirst.com/winners/cellparts.htm>
Creative want ads must list the qualifications, responsibilities, and benefits of each cell, so students will need to make sure they completely understand their cells before submitting their classified ads.
- The Clock Of Life
http://www.pbs.org/safarchive/4_class/44_guides/guide_1003/44103_life.html
Step into the fountain of youth--is it possible? Find out the latest research on chromosomes, genetic clocks, and the research into immortality here. Students can also participate in an animated cell division activity.
- Create A DNA Fingerprint
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/sheppard/analyze.html>
How can your students best understand how DNA works? How about through solving a mystery... Shockwave is required for this interactive, online exploration into the micro-world of DNA.
- Celebrate Cells Webquest
<http://can-do.com/uci/ssi2001/cells.html>
Cell structures called organelles are the focus for this webquest, where students will be investigating cells from animals, plants, fungi, protists, and bacteria. They will connect to various online presentations on cells, fill in puzzles, note similarities and differences between cells, and create a 3-D model of a plant cell.
- Frankenstein Food
http://www.riverdeep.net/current/2002/04/042902t_gmfoods.jhtml
First there was Frankenstein, a fictional hybrid of humanity and monster in a genetic experimentation gone awry. Enter Dolly the sheep--and genetic engineering earned itself a bold reality outside the pages of a science fiction novel. Surging forward into the 21st century with a flair for garnering worldwide attention--and a knack for investigating broad ethical debate--genetics, or more precisely, genetic modification, is causing alarm to some, and promising superior performance and products to others. Read about tomato enhancements and let your students debate the ethics behind gene tampering.



Internet Sites of Interest

Educational Technology

Department of Education Office of Educational Technology

<http://www.ed.gov/Technology/>

Provide leadership to the nation in using technology to promote achievement of the National Education Goals.

Technology Administration for Students and Educators

http://www.technology.gov/Menu_Educ.htm

Brought to you by the Mars Global Surveyor Radio Science Team.

National Education Technology Plan

<http://www.nationaletechplan.org>

Developed as part of a long-range national strategy and guide for using technology effectively to improve student academic achievement.

Educational Technology Grants

<http://www.ed.gov/Technology/edgrants.html>

A list of grant and funding opportunities for educational technology.

Fall

The Miracle of Fall

<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/fallcolor/>

Learn why leaves change color, check foliage updates, driving tours, cams, photos, and festivals.

Photosynthesis: Don't "Leaf" Out Fall's Most Valuable Lesson!

http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson024.shtm

Fall colors provide the perfect motivation for teaching about photosynthesis across the grades.

Fall Fun at Kids Domain

<http://www.kidsdomain.com/holiday/fall/>

You'll find crafts, games, and more to celebrate the season, along with fun for the specific fall holidays.

Fire Safety

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/kids/>

Support your local fire company in its efforts to promote fire safety education in your community year round and during Fire Prevention Week October 5-11, 2003. Some sites to help in this effort: USFA's Kids Page <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/kids/> The USFA is part of the federal government. One of their jobs is to help prevent fires. The Kids Page is full of tips that can help you and your family be safe from fire. <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/kids/>

NYS Dept. of State: Fire Safety for Kids

<http://www.dos.state.ny.us/kidsroom/firesafe/firesafe.html>

Hershey, an Arson Dog with the Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC), will be your guide through the Kids' Room Fire Safety site.

A to Z Teacher Stuff: Teaching Fire Safety Theme Page

http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/themes/safety_fire.shtm

USFA Teacher/Parent Lounge lesson plans, printables, discussion points, and a list of fire safety sites for kids.

Children's Fire Safety Tips

<http://www.redhotdots.net>

Fire Safety tips for children with Bud the Dog and Dan the Fireman. Also coloring and music.

eThemes

Animals: Black-Faced Spoonbills

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001113.html> These sites are about black-faced spoonbills, a species of wetland birds living along eastern Asia's coastline. Learn about their physical characteristics, behavior, present status, distribution, and migration patterns. Find out the threats they face and the steps that have been taken to conserve them. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on endangered species.

Literature: "Harriet the Spy" by Louise Fitzhugh

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001114.html>

These sites are about the book, "Harriet the Spy." There are suggested classroom activities, such as having students keep a journal of their observations. Also includes tips on how to teach students to use descriptive writing. There are links to eThemes Resources on espionage and spies, character traits, realistic fiction, and figurative language.

Teaching Tips: Study Groups for Teachers

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001021.html>

These articles explain how teachers can form study groups in order to further their professional development. There are listings to print resources on this topic.

U.S. President: Ronald Reagan

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001104.html>

These sites are about Ronald Reagan, a former actor who went on to receive the most electoral votes of any president. Learn about his accomplishments as president, the assassination attempt, the controversy of the Iran-Contra Affair, and his wife, Nancy. Includes photographs, video clips, and audio files. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on U.S. Presidents.

Writing: Memoirs

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001109.html>

These sites explain how to write memoirs and include ideas for getting started. There are also some writing examples and lists of recommended children's books that use this form of writing.

Animals: Mealworms

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001117.html>

Learn how mealworms change into darkling beetles. Includes several instructions for conducting science experiments involving mealworms. Some of the experiments have a technology component, such as using spreadsheets and digital cameras to record the metamorphosis of these insects. There are also suggestions for caring for mealworms in the classroom.

Writing: Historical Fiction

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001118.html>

Learn more about the genre of historical fiction. There are definitions and listings of recommended children's books, plus lesson plans and classroom activities. Includes links to eThemes Resources on various historical fiction books.

Math: How Much Is One Million?

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001120.html>

These sites help students visualize what large numbers, such as one million, look like. There are online representations of a million, plus hands-on activities. Find out your age in millions of seconds. Includes lesson plans about the books by David Schwartz. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on place value.

U.S. President: George Washington

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001103.html>

These sites are about George Washington, the first U.S. President. Read biographies, timelines, letters, and diaries. There is also information about the Washington Monument. Includes lesson plans, classroom activities, and online quizzes. There are links to eThemes Resources on presidents and Presidents Day.

U.S. President: Richard M. Nixon

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001107.html>

These sites are about Richard Milhous Nixon, the 37th president of the United States. Includes timelines, biographies, video and audio clips, and primary documents. See the birthplace and burial site of Nixon. There is also information about the Watergate scandal, Nixon's resignation as president, and his pardon from President Ford. View photographs of President Nixon and Elvis Presley. Includes a link to an eThemes Resource on U.S. Presidents.

Animals: Vertebrates and Invertebrates

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001121.html>

These sites explain how vertebrates and invertebrates are classified in the animal kingdom. There is information about the five groups of vertebrates (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals) and the seven phylums of invertebrates (sponges, coelenterates, echinoderms, worms, mollusks, and arthropods). Includes games that have students guess a type of animal based upon clues about its characteristics. For more information about specific animal species, browse our alphabetical listing of eThemes.

U.S. President: Jimmy Carter

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001108.html>

Learn more about former president Jimmy Carter and how his experiences during the Great Depression influenced his views. Includes biographies, timelines, photographs, videos, and more. Read about his Nobel Peace Prize and take a virtual tour of his boyhood home. There is a link to eThemes Resource on U.S. Presidents.

U.S. President: John F. Kennedy

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001105.html>

These sites are about John F. Kennedy, the youngest elected president. Read about America's 35th president, his policies, and his influence. Includes biographies, photographs, and audio clips of his most famous speeches. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on U.S. Presidents.

Updated eThemes

Writing: Science Fiction and Fantasy

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000255.html>

These sites are about the genres of science fiction writing and fantasy. Includes reading lists of recommended books for children.

Anatomy: Respiratory System

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001016.html>

These sites have information about the respiratory system for students in the upper grades. Discover the structure and functions of this system's organs. Includes videos, diagrams, online games, and quizzes about the respiratory system. Includes links to eThemes Resources on human body systems for younger grades and the circulatory system.

Math: Place Value

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000785.html>

These sites focus on place value and cover basic concepts and place value charts. Includes many interactive games and quizzes. There are also some activity ideas and video clips.

Keyboarding Skills: Elementary

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000448.html>

These sites have online activities and games for students to practice their typing skills. Includes information about setting up comfortable workstations for elementary students. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on computer basics.

Poets

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000065.html>

These sites feature authors who write poetry for children. Includes biographies of poets and examples

of their work. Learn about Dr. Seuss, Shel Silverstein, Jack Prelutsky, Sara Holbrook, Edward Lear, and other poets. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on writing poetry.

Writing: Poetry

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000021.html>

These sites provide examples of different forms of poetry written for kids. Includes haiku, acrostic, concrete, limerick, free verse, couplet, and cinquain. Students can read the examples and then create their own original poetry. There are also classroom activities for celebrating National Poetry Month in April. Includes a link to an eThemes Resource on poets on the Web.

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